CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Philad[a] June 6[th] 1827

Respected Friend
Dr John Torrey Thy letter of the 10th Ult. —
was duly rec[d]. & I have only delayed
answering it from the expectation of being
able to inform thee respecting the ~~Electrometer~~ Electro
which is not yet sent. Soon after I wrote
last — Wm Mason was attacked with severe
rheumatism in his hands & legs which
disabled him from work ~~during~~ the
past winter & which has till within a
short time afflicted him. The graduation
of the Electrometer was to be done by
him & I learn that the instrument
is now in his hands & will be finished
in a few days — I will send it when
ready to Stacy B Collins with instructions
to forward it to West Point. I have
never had any bill of the cost of
the 6 glasses which were sent to me.

The maker of the dry pile says that
he is often troubled with the columns
in the way thou hadst been; & that he
finds that wiping them with a wet
rag to take off grease & dust & then very
carefully with a dry cloth will almost
always restore the vibration of the pen-

dulum — although the pendulum appears to be upside down, its is really not so as the lower end is much the heavier —

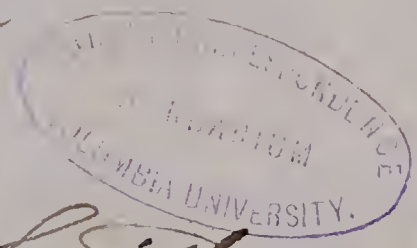
Professor Hare says he will send copies of his late work to New York & forward one to this —

I have been much gratified in looking over thy two works on Botany I hope the large one will be soon completed. What is the reason there are so few here for sale?

The chief if not the only defect of the Linnean System as a Dictionary of plants is the numerous anomalies in which species vary from the Genus in the number of Stamina & Pistils as Euonymus, Rhododendron &c — Persoh has a catalogue of the genera which have anomalous species — & in the Species Plantarum there is a list at the end of each class of the plants which actually belong there but are classed differently — Allow me to suggest the advantage in the next edition of the compiling of such a catalogue with * reference to the page where the plant is described — Would it not

add to the usefulness of the work if containing such a list
a sheets were printed & pasted at the
end of the work —

Our new Review is attracting much
attention here — Would not the history
of the progress of Botanical science in
the U: S, of the contributions of Americans
thereto & a biographical sketch of em=
=inent native or naturalized Botanists
be a fine subject for an article? The
course of study would enable thee
to do this con amore —



respectfully
Dan Brinton

MAY

Dr John Torrey
West Point
N.Y.

Yours B. Smith
Mem 9th 1837.
Rec'd mem 13th

Germantown Phila. 17th 1866

Respected Friend

Dr John Torrey

I enclose a specimen of a small plant which is quite a favourite with our gardeners — but which has not yet been named. I think it is clearly a Telanthera, but the species is not in Decandolle as far as I can make out. Be so kind as to excuse the liberty I take in thus troubling thee, but it is one of the penalties that men of superior attainments pay for distinction to be thus pestered by the ignorant. The plant has fairly puzzled me, & I only like to be puzzled when I can solve the problem — I hope thy California trip repaid thee in increased knowledge & regained health for its vicissitudes & annoyances — Respectfully thy friend

Dan'l B Smith